

it's like the old-time fighters with once-names  
being fed to the rising small-town heroes.

I was in Phoenix this one afternoon  
and people were talking and chattering and talking  
and I borrowed the lady's car  
and drove down to the track.

I had a fair day.  
then in the last race  
this jock brought in a longshot:  
\$48.40 and I looked at the program:  
R.Y.

so that's what happened to him?  
when he wheeled his mount up outside the winner's  
circle he shook his whip in the air  
just like he used to do at Hollypark and Anita.  
it was like seeing the dead  
reborn:  
old R.Y.  
riding 3 pounds overweight and still able to  
create the magic.

I hadn't even noticed his name  
in that \$3,500 claiming race  
or I would have put a small  
sentimental bet on him  
on his only mount of the day.

you can have your New Year's  
your birthdays  
your xmas  
your 4th. of July's.

driving back in  
I felt very good for R.Y.

when I got back in they were still  
chatting and talking and chatting  
and the lady looked up and said,  
"well, how did you do?"  
and I said, "I had a lucky day."  
and she said, "it's about time."  
and she was right.

#### A LITTLE SUN

the whores at the All-American Burger  
sit in the patio  
laughing at 2:30 in the afternoon.  
they have finished eating  
and 2 of them are drinking coffee.  
the 3rd drinks a coke through a straw.

the rains have stopped.  
the rains have been terrible for business  
everywhere.  
I am reading the Herald-Examiner  
at a corner table and the sun is on my back.  
2 of the girls  
(the ones drinking coffee) are in pants;  
the other one (drinking coke through a straw)  
and facing me  
wears a short skirt.  
she spreads her legs and the sun  
runs under the table and I can see her  
panties:  
they are a light grey.  
I turn a page of the newspaper  
see nothing  
turn back to the front page:  
the weatherman says there'll be  
another storm on the way.  
I get up and walk past their table.  
they are giggling like  
highschool girls.  
out on the sidewalk  
a thin brown dog with a swayback  
bent long legs shivering  
picks up half a dry bun  
and tries to chew it;  
the bun hangs out one side of  
his mouth  
as he tries to shuffle it down  
his throat.  
it hasn't been a very good  
winter.

#### THE DANDY

the "Hollywood" sign on the mountain  
has been falling apart  
and after the rains  
it has worsened:  
the first "o" has slipped a little  
and the top has broken off  
and the third "o" has fallen off  
so now the sign reads:  
"H<sub>u</sub>llywo d"  
and I stopped at the Gower Gulch  
Shopping Center  
for a new pair of prescription  
sun glasses